MONTEREY NEWS

January 2013
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The Town

by Susan Gallant

Buel Brouhaha

In its ongoing attempts to arrive at a permanent solution for Lake Buel's flooding problems, the Select Board convened a second conference call on December 3 to discuss the matter. Participants included Mark Stinson and Jeremiah Mew of the Department of Environmental Protection, Smitty Pignatelli and his assistant Kerry Sullivan, Melissa Provencer of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Bob Barry and Bonnie Roy of Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, and New Marlborough Select Board members Tara White and Nat Yohalem, along with that town's administrative assistant, Mike Skorput.

Scott Jenssen, chair of Monterey's Select Board, began by summarizing the six-year-long problem and the board's suggestion for a workable solution, which is to remove the woody debris in the Konkapot that causes the river to back up into Lake Buel. Environmental experts in these matters must weigh in, so the discussion then turned to the engineering study performed by C. T. Male and funded by

Lake Buel winter scene: swimmers looking for open water (photo by Frank Ashen)

the towns of Monterey and New Marlborough, to the tune of $20,000 (half the cost coming from each town). Although a summary of the study's findings has been floating around, a report detailing the study and its conclusions has yet to be seen. In an attempt to track down the study, Steve Pullen, Monterey's accountant, joined the meeting and confirmed that in 2008 $10,000 was allocated to the Lake Buel Watershed Committee, and in 2010 that same committee received an additional $8,000 from Monterey. New Marlborough also has records showing that in 2008 $10,000 was paid to the same entity. All agreed that getting their hands on a detailed copy of the study is paramount, and once everyone is on the same page, so to speak, another conference call will be scheduled. To that end, Melissa Noe, Monterey's intrepid Inter-Departmental Secretary, will try to track down the missing report, beginning with a call to Dan Moriarity of the Lake Buel Watershed Committee.

But despite everyone's best efforts and numerous visits from Dan Moriarty during December, the issues, much like the floodwaters, remain murky. The Select Board will be inviting members of the Prudential Committee, the governing body of the Lake Buel District, to join a Select Board meeting in the coming year to clarify matters and to move forward in its flood mitigation efforts.

Money Matters

The Select Board received an anonymous letter expressing concern that the money spent on fireworks during MontereyFest could have served a better purpose. The board wants all Monterey residents to know that the funding for the fireworks came from private funds and not from the town coffers.

Finance Committee members Stan Ross and Michael Storch met with the Select Board on December 3 to discuss next year's budget.

The Expensive Stuff

Both the Highway Department and the Fire Department have requested some big-ticket items. To gain a better understanding of the need for these costly purchases, Stan and Michael met with Director of Operations Maynard Forbes and Fire Chief Shawn Tryon. Stan began by explaining that insurance companies require that if fire equipment is not replaced after twenty years, premiums go up not only on older engines but on homeowners' insurance as well. Monterey's Engine 1, which is used primarily as a backup, went into service in 1996, and according to Shawn, is in very good shape. Its replacement can be put off for up to two years. Engine 7, purchased in 2003, is the truck primarily used. Shawn did suggest that the department would be better served by selling its airboat and replacing it with a large rubber raft equipped with an outboard motor.

Forbes reported that one large, looming expense is updating the transfer station. But since there is no mandate requiring a major overhaul, this project can be postponed beyond the 2014 fiscal year. The grader, however, may be a different matter. According to Maynard, it is in reasonably good condition, but parts for it are no longer available, so there would be no easy fix if something major fails. For now, the grader will remain on the FY14 warrant.

The Important Stuff

When the Select Board met with Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) superintendent Michael Singleton and administrative manager Bruce Turner last month, it discussed plans for Monterey to build its own school on Monterey property, if the SBRSD would continue to provide either pre-K/K or K/1 programs. Scott Jenssen has been exploring a number of options for the new building, one of which would be to purchase a modular structure. He discovered that a modular LEED-certified school that could accommodate eighteen to twenty-one

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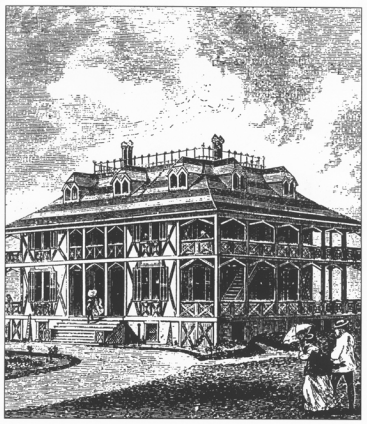

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children would cost roughly $550,000. Scott also reported that the Monterey School Study Committee would like to hold hearings and make presentations for a new building sometime in February and to vote on the expenditure at town meeting if the hearings show support for the project. If all goes as planned, construction might get underway by 2014.

Some financial help may be available. At the December 17th Select Board meeting, Bruce Turner, SBRSD administrative manager, stopped by to discuss the school building assistance program, which is funded by 1 percent of the sales tax the state takes in. He explained that the school building authority could provide design help, offset up to 50 percent of the cost of a new building, or provide funding for repairs. To begin the process, the Select Board needs to submit a letter of intent to adopt a resolution. The letter merely gets the ball rolling and requires no obligation on either side. Board members thanked Turner for the information and will discuss this further.

The Necessary Stuff

For some time now, the town hall basement has been in disrepair and as a result does not meet current building-code requirements for a public building. To bring the basement up to code so that a certificate of occupancy can be issued would cost an estimated $30,000. That amount would cover excavating around the building to address the moisture issues; removing the current nonfunctioning kitchen and replacing it with only a refrigerator/freezer and a more suitable microwave oven, which would free up space for more filing cabinets; and possibly adding a shower to the existing bathroom for use by emergency personnel.

The Painful Stuff

In light of all these expensive issues needing to be addressed, the Finance Committee believes that funds put into the stabilization account must be increased. Therefore, it is recommending that the amount increase to $100,000, double what had been going into the coffers in previous years. And that will affect all Monterey residents: real-estate taxes are expected to increase from 5.27 percent to 5.59 percent, a projected $16 more per quarter for a home assessed at $200,000.

Mystery Photo: Help! *This photo was found in the Monterey Swap Shop at the end of the first week of December and turned over to the Monterey Historical Society. We know from the teacher's dress that it was taken in the late 1880s or very early 1890s. The banding on the bottom of one girl's skirt is an earlier style, but the overdresses or jumpers and style of coats on other girls fit into the 1880s. The boys are wearing era-appropriate over-the-knee pants and long dark stockings under their boots. Some of the faces seem familiar—but for all we know someone picked this up in another town. We'd love to have another schoolhouse photo in our collection of photos of Monterey past, but we need your help. If you know where this photo came from please let Barbara Swann of the Monterey Historical Society or Will Marsh, editor of the* Monterey News*, know.*

Police Report

At the December 10th Select Board meeting, Police Chief Gareth Backhaus reported the following recent Police Department activities:

- Assisted with medical calls on Laurel Banks Rd., Lake Ave., Art School Rd., and Pine St.
- Received numerous calls complaining of suspicious activity and continued harassment on Blue Hill Rd.
- Responded to a threat of violence ; criminal charges were filed and a restraining order issued.
- Assisted Fire Dept. on Tyringham Rd.
- False alarms on Beartown Mountain, Tyringham , Stevens Lake, and Art School Rds.

>

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- Motor vehicle accident on River Rd.: car vs. deer.
- Motor vehicle accident at Main and Sandisfield Rds.: car vs. electrical pole; a criminal complaint has been issued.
- Assisted disabled party on Lime Rock Lane.
- Received call about a buck stuck in the ice on Sylvan Rd. Apparently the presence of the police cruiser inspired the animal to free himself and run off.
- Lockout on Wellman Rd.

The department also received a number of calls about loose dogs on Mt. Hunger, Main, Blue Hill, Brett, and Pixley Roads. Chief Backhaus wants to remind everyone who owns dogs to get them tagged at the Town Clerk's office so that unattended dogs can be returned to their owners.

The Select Board also asked Chief Backhaus to talk about Monterey's emergency plan. Simon's Rock would most likely be the first facility available in an emergency evacuation. The Monterey Town Hall is not equipped to provide sufficient services necessary to be considered an official shelter but can be used as an informal warming station. Inquiries about shelter facilities and the like should be made to the Police Department and/or Fire Department. Chief Backhaus said that the best place to wait out a storm or other natural disaster is in the home, and every household should have on hand at all times enough supplies to get all household members through such an event. Detailed lists and other information can be found at http://www.ready.gov/basic-disaster-supplies-kit.

New Monterey Policeman

Chief Gareth Backhaus attended the December 17th Select Board meeting to introduce Brennan Polidoro, an officer candidate who will be available for part-time duty in Monterey. Chief Backhaus explained one of the part-time officers currently available to cover weekends and vacations has taken a full-time job and another has a conflict with his other position. Therefore, an additional part-time officer is needed to make sure every shift is covered. Chief Backhaus went on to say that Brennan studied criminal justice at Berkshire Community College and attended the Police Academy. He also has taken additional courses, earning certificates in radar use and firearms training.

Some of the questions the board asked were about his experience wrangling horses and pigs and dealing with mental health issues. Scott Jenssen also explained that working for a small, relatively close-knit community like ours requires a police officer to find a balance between leniency and strict adherence to the letter of the law. The Select Board was satisfied with Brennan's responses, and Chief Backhaus asked that he be appointed through June 20, 2013 and then re-evaluated. The board approved Brennan's appointment.

Town Accountant Resigning

On December 10, Steve Pullen, Monterey's accountant, informed the Select Board of his resignation, effective April 30, 2013. Before that, an audit will take place; usually this is done during the last week in January or the first week in February. Steve suggested that he would need at least six weeks to train his replacement unless the new hire has experience with the current municipal accounting software. Melissa Noe will be placing ads in all the usual places, including the *Shopper's Guide* and the town website. ॐ

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Opening for Part-Time Town Accountant

The Town of Monterey is seeking qualified applicants for the part-time appointed position of Town Accountant. The Town Accountant will perform all duties in accordance with applicable Massachusetts General Laws, town policies, town bylaws, and relevant state, federal, and local regulations and standards. Applicants must possess the advanced knowledge, skills, ability, and progressive experience necessary to serve as the Town Accountant. Requirements include experience in finance/accounting and automated accounting systems, and an associate's degree in business administration, accounting, or a related field. Municipal accounting experience and/or experience with the Softright accounting software is helpful but not required. The position requires that you be available during normal town hall operating hours and that you make monthly reports to the Select Board at their Monday morning meetings.

Resumes and letters of interest should be sent to: Monterey Select Board, P.O. Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245 Re: Accountant, or via email to townmont@verizon.net by January 11, 2013.

The Town of Monterey is an equal opportunity employer.

Presentation on Genetically Modified Foods at January 16th Community Potluck

The December Potluck program presented by the Monterey Community Center Committee was full of information and plans and hope. It was very well received by the folks present. Let's all work together to make the community center a reality!

For the January Community Potluck, we have a much more globally focused program, on genetically modified foods. Genetically modified organisms, known commonly as GMOs, are now found frequently in our groceries. Scientists and healthy food proponents have been mounting a campaign to educate the public on GMOs. Ed Stockman, a biologist and organic farmer for forty-one years, has been lecturing throughout New England for over a decade on GMOs. Most recently he has been focusing on the fight to label GMO foods in Massachusetts.

Ed is affiliated with the Massachusetts Right to Know GMOs (marightoknow.com). He says, "After researching GMO technology and the agricultural practices associated with growing GMO crops, I became very concerned. As a grandparent my concerns naturally focus on the health of children who are eating foods containing GMO ingredients."

The Massachusetts Right to Know GMOs is a statewide network of advocates who believe it is a fundamental right for people to know if their food contains ingredients derived from GMOs. They are actively promoting passage of legislation that would require the mandatory labeling of GMO foods in Massachusetts.

As Ed points out, foods containing GMO ingredients have not been tested for human safety, are not regulated, and are not labeled. Yet most Americans eat them every day. Sixty-one nations label GMO foods. The U.S. and Canada are the only industrial nations that do not require mandatory labeling. Animal studies show serious health problems, but they are ignored by the USDA and the FDA.

Ed's talk to our community supper will focus on what GMOs are, how they entered our food supply, and what measures we can take to remove them from our food.

Our next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held January 16 in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse at 6 pm. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil, and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

—Babrbara Dahlman & Kyle Pierce

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Gould Farm Centennial-Year Exhibit at Knox Gallery

It is fitting that Gould Farm's official announcement of its Centennial Year 2013 break in the *Monterey News*. For it was this unique community that welcomed the little band of social-service entrepreneurs led by Will and Agnes Gould in 1913, held them here, and quietly nourished this successful effort in its rural heart across a century. For the reciprocity, cooperation, and supportive goodwill evidenced during this impressive span of time by the citizenry of Monterey, the some 75(?) of us currently thriving on Gould Farm's 650 acres of fields, gardens, and woodland say a resounding "Thank you." And that gratitude is echoed across the years by a multitude of Gould Farmers who have benefitted from the Farm's dynamic therapeutic milieu.

Gould Farm will open its year of celebration on January 18 with an Archival Exhibit at the Monterey Library's Knox Gallery. From its inception as a helping community, the Farm has witnessed the vicissitudes of how society responds to those struggling with the challenge of mental illness, and has maintained its basic premise that work is healthy and community life is vital for the well being of everyone. It is by endeavor in community that we gain a sense of self and place in the world. It is by engaging in meaningful work that we gain confidence in our skills and self-worth. While this is true for everyone, it is doubly difficult to achieve for those will a mental vulnerability.

Caroline Goodyear in Gould Farm garden in early days of the Farm (photo courtesy Gould Farm)

This is the vision of recovery that Gould Farm has contributed to the movement of psychosocial therapeutic rehabilitation, and it is why people from all over the world have modeled their successful residential treatment communities on Gould Farm.

The exhibit will tell the story of Gould Farm with five panels of 50 photos and text. The exhibit will be enhanced with artifacts such as hand-woven placemats created by Agnes Gould and her sister, Caroline Goodyear, and given as a wedding gift to Janet McKee and John Silard; a 1900 time clock used by the night watchman; wooden carvings created by the wood shop; art; and much more.

The opening reception will be on Friday January 18, 6:00–7:30 pm in the Knox Gallery. There will be a brief reflection on Farm life from some community members and a short looping movie showing footage of Farm life from the early twentieth century to the present. Refreshments from Gould Farms' Harvest Barn Bakery will be served. We would love to have all of our local friends at the opening to celebrate with us!

The exhibit will be on display from January 19–February 20, during library hours.

Thank you to the Friends of the Monterey Library and the Massachusetts Cultural Council for their support.

—Gould Farm Centennial Committee

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Required Conflict of Interest Training for Town Employees and Volunteers

The State Ethics Commission's new conflict of interest online training program is now available.

Every municipal employee is required by law to complete this training every two years. (The first year of the program was 2010.) Anyone who performs a service for a municipality whether elected, appointed, full or part-time, consultant, intermittent, volunteer, paid, or unpaid is considered a municipal employee for the conflict of interest law. The training must be completed by April 5, 2013. The program can be completed on any work, home, or publicly available computer with Internet access. Upon completion of the training, which takes about an hour, you must print out the completion certificate and return it to the Town Clerk. The program can be accessed through www.muniprog.eth.state.ma.us or www.mass.gov/ethics. Make sure you choose "municipal employee." If you have any questions regarding this training program, please call the Town Clerk at 413-528-1443 X 113.

—Deborah Mielke
Monterey Town Clerk

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Safe Driving Tips: Yield to Emergency Vehicles

Here is what drivers must do when a moving emergency vehicles with flashing lights or siren approaches (taken from the Massachusetts Drivers Manual, chapter 5):

• Always yield the right-of-way to fire engines, ambulances, police cars, and other emergency vehicles that are using a siren and/or emergency flashing lights.

• If an emergency vehicle is coming from any direction, you must pull as close as possible to the right side of the road. Stop until the vehicle has passed. Slowly rolling is not acceptable.

• Check your mirrors and find a safe place to pull over to the right. You should not pull your vehicle to the left or slam on your brakes. Do not stop suddenly. Use your right turn signal.

• NEVER stop in the middle of an intersection. Drive through the intersection and pull over as soon as it is safe.

• After the emergency vehicle has passed, use your left turn signal and make sure the lane is clear. Be sure there are no other emergency vehicles approaching. Then you can merge back into traffic.

• It is illegal to follow closer than 300 feet behind an emergency vehicle responding to an alarm.

Stationary Emergency Vehicle

In 2010, there were 269 crashes involving stopped emergency vehicles in Massachusetts.

• You must slow down and stay alert when you see an "emergency response vehicle" stopped ahead of you with its emergency lights flashing. This includes fire trucks, police cars, ambulances, and "disaster vehicles" (usually in support of other emergency vehicles and services). This also includes highway maintenance vehicles or recovery vehicles (tow truck, ramp truck, etc.) with flashing emergency lights. You must be careful for the safety of yourself and others.

• The "move-over law" (Chapter 418 of the Acts of 2008) requires you to be cautious and reduce your speed to a speed that is reasonable and safe for the road conditions when you approach a stationary emergency vehicle with flashing lights. On a highway with at least four lanes (at least two in the same direction you are heading), yield the right-of way by safely "moving over" to a lane that is not next to the lane the emergency vehicle is in. In other words, leave an open lane between your vehicle and the stopped emergency vehicle. If "moving-over" is not possible, you must still be cautious and reduce your speed to a reasonable and safe speed.

• Always be ready to stop if necessary when passing an emergency vehicle.

• At night, be sure to dim your high beams.

• If you need help, pull in front of the police cruiser and ask for help. Never stop behind a police cruiser. (Do not approach a police officer who is dealing with a stopped motorist. Stand next to your vehicle on the shoulder until the police officer is finished.)

• It is illegal to drive by or park within 800 feet of a fire. Do not drive over an unprotected fire hose unless directed to by a firefighter or public safety official.

— Officer Michael Johnson
Monterey Police Department

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Monterey Library Notes
EVERGREEN!

At this point we've endured Evergreen, the new CWMARS software, for over half a year. I know many of you have had problems, but many of you have grown accustomed to and are using our software in ways not possible with the previous system. Perhaps the biggest difference is that Evergreen allows you to search libraries in both the Central and Western regions at once. CWMARS was finally able to get Virtual Catalog in synch with Evergreen, and everyone should be able to order from libraries all over Massachusetts now—and don't forget, if you can't get it in Virtual you can request it from the staff and we will go beyond that system to track things down. There are a couple of things you can do to help you and us work the system to all of our advantage.

To begin with, you can log into your account and update addresses, phone numbers, and, very importantly, email addresses. Your email will only be used for courtesy notices that books are due, and when something you've placed on hold is ready for you to pick it up. This service only works if Evergreen has your correct address. If you are having trouble logging in to your account, please come in and ask us to help you. We can't tell you your password but we can tell you your user name and reset your password to something that will get you into your account so that you can then set a username and password of your choice.

There are a few reasons Evergreen will allow you to access your account but not do any renewals or holds. There is a fine threshold and a very high limit of checked-out items, but the most common problem we have found is that your account expires every two years. Stop in and we can renew it, or email montereylibrary@gmail.com. As soon as we renew it for two years you'll be back in business.

The most important operation you'll be doing once you've got the hang of accessing your account is to search the catalog. The web address is http://bark.cwmars.org. In general the simpler you can make your search the better. Search with as few terms as possible. This catalog is very literal. "Toolkit" will produce different results from "tool kit." If you can't get results with limiters try again with fewer limiters. Terms can be in any order, so "Mark Twain" will get the same results as "Twain Mark." Capitalization is ignored. To exclude a term, use the minus sign so that "Gone with the –Wind" will not produce the novel by Margaret Mitchell. "Indian food" will include both American Indian food and food from India. To narrow the search, try "Indian food –American." A search for "dog" will include results with dogs, and "Amish quilt" will include Amish quilts and Amish quilting as well. You may enter any short simple phrase in the search text box—for instance "Spain hotels" will return materials about lodging in Spain.

These are a few basic hints, and the only way to learn the system is by using it. Please tell us if you encounter difficulties. Good luck with finding what you want—CWMARS has millions of items, and since we are a member library you as a Monterey patron can access almost all of any other library's collection. We still get delivery three times a week, so order away!

—Mark Makuc, Library Director

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Community Center News

We're pleased to announce that the generous donations coming in as a result of our Capital Campaign mailings now give us enough funding to ensure that we will be able to proceed with the next phase of the Wilson McLaughlin House renovation: the removal of old lead paint from exterior and interior. As mentioned before, this is more complicated by far than that short ten-word phrase. Bid forms will be going out soon, and we look forward to seeing work take place on the house as soon as weather permits in the spring, perhaps by late March or early April.

We just learned that our website host has been "hacked" and our website files compromised, resulting in dire warning messages from many web browsers. As a result, we have moved our site to another server, starting over with fresh versions of the files, so you'll be able to learn more about the Community Center and check on progress at www.ccmonterey.org; and as always you can email us at center@ccmonterey.org. You can also make a secure online donation through the site.

Thank you for all your interest and support!

—Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House

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From the Tax Collector

The fiscal year 2013 Real Estate and Personal Property bills for the third quarter have been mailed and are due February 1, 2013. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the Tax Collector's office (413-528-1443 x117). The fourth quarter tax bills will be mailed in late March and are due May 1, 2013. If you wish, you may pay both the February and May amounts at this time.

Please direct all questions regarding assessments, abatement applications, and personal property taxes to the Board of Assessors, PO Box 488, Monterey, MA 01245, 413-528-1443 x115. Abatement applications must be received in the Assessors' Office by February 1, 2013.

To accommodate taxpayers who want the convenience of paying Monterey Real Estate and Personal Property taxes online, an online payment option is available. To pay your tax, you must have your current bill and checkbook/credit card in hand. Log on to www.montereyma.gov and click on Pay Real Estate Taxes Online. You will need to enter your current bill number and the current bill year (2013). Beginning on January 1, the bank will assess a minimal fee of $0.25 per transaction. MasterCard, Visa, and Discover credit cards will be accepted. Please note the credit card company will charge the taxpayer a fee for the service. This fee is not assessed by or paid to the Town of Monterey.

—Mari Enoch Monterey Tax Collector

December Wildlife Report

Did anyone go out at midnight on December 24 to hear the animals speak? This has been a legend and a tradition in our family. I first heard about it from my mother. I'd say those of us who are tuned in to the animals hear them speak all the time, though, not just on Christmas Eve.

Will Marsh saw a "svelte" young deer out his office window the next day, December 25, and then three others joined it. Will also reports that on Friday evening, December 7, he saw a fox in his headlights as he was approaching his driveway. Then in mid-morning on Monday, December 17, a red fox loped up the side of the road outside his garage office and on up the road. And Will and Glynis have had several visits by wild turkeys, and their constant, and welcome, bird-feeder guests: chickadees, juncos, nuthatches, cardinals, tufted titmice, blue jays (not quite as welcome), and the occasional dove—and of course squirrels.

Chris Goldfinger reported an intimate time with a bear at their place late in October, when words failed the parties involved. The friendly bear could not process the invitation to leave; nonverbal communication ensued and was successful.

Steve Snyder saw a mink on December 21 at Gould Farm, and we took a walk here on the December 24 and found the toboggan trail of an otter, sliding uphill between Chestnut Hill and Morley Hill. We have also had a visit from redpolls at the feeder, just one day, and brown creepers heading up the tree trunks, again and again (see story p. 14).

Elizabeth Maschmeyer recalled two big moose, each with antlers, along Route 23 just over into Otis. She was remembering December 6, 2011.

On a sidestreeet in Great Barrington, we saw a pair of bluebirds moving from bush to bush on December 23, and Steve Snyder saw some just a month earlier here in Monterey, on November 23. He also reports a very small owl, which he at first took to be a baby, but then realized must be a saw whet or screech owl, both of which are quite small.

A number of people have been seeing robins, still around town. Thanks, folks, for sending me your animal news.

—Bonner McAllester,
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Monterey Walks from Julius Miner's Recollections (1940)

Part 4: Gould Road, Lovers Lane, River Road

Prepared by Barbara Swann for the Monterey Historical Society

Gould Road

Starting from the village, let us go toward Great Barrington and take the first road to the left [Curtiss Road]. After crossing the bridge, if in the evening or early morning, look for deer in the meadow on the left.

At the next cross-roads, pause for a moment. The left turn is on the Gould Road but let us first continue straight on up the hill on what appears to be a lane (near the big barn). This leads to the site of an old farm on an elevation which affords an extensive view. [This is no longer a direct road to the Curtiss foundation, and that foundation no longer affords an extensive view.]

Notice the large cut stone doorsteps and wall facing. The former Yankee owner was disliked by the rattlesnakes for invading their chosen territory. At last, one of them could endure his presence no longer and bit him. The farmer expected to die from the bite but wanted revenge. He said that he might as well die for a sheep as for a lamb so he thrust his hand into the crevices in the stone wall where the snake had hidden, pulled it out (or its mate), and killed it. Contrary to his expectations, with proper care, the farmer recovered after a severe illness. For many years, he had a recurrence of his illness every summer. [His experience is discussed at length in Harriet Townsend's 1854–1857 diary.]

Now, let us return to the road, taking that left turn past the big barn. There are to be seen some fine cows and pigs. Going up the hill, note the old house on the right with its fine front doorway. Look back at the view and see how many houses you can identify.

Gould Farm Main House, 1916 (photo courtesy Monterey Historical Society)

Presently, we come to the main house of Gould Farm. The founders once found themselves in a great city, penniless but rich in faith in God. They attained such sympathy and understanding with unfortunate or depressed people that they started to help them in a systematic way. The buildings about evidence their success in this splendid work. Visitors are welcomed.

A forest fire once swept over some of the Gould property. In the fight against it, Mr. Gould overtaxed his strength and fell

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dead near the small house just beyond the main one. The whole community lamented his death but felt that he had made a triumphant entrance into his new life.

A path on the upper side of the road leads into a deep-dark pine wood. This is the Gould burial-place.

We now cross what, was once known as Rawson Brook, but a Mr. Harmon changed a Rawson girl's name to Harmon so the brook became Harmon Brook. Both families were early settlers. [It has reverted back to Rawson Brook now]

Notice the sweet fern on the upper bank of the roadside and the wild roses. We now come out on the New Marlboro Road. Turning left, we are one and a half miles from the Center.

Lovers Lane

Leaving the village center, let us go west on the Great Barrington Road, taking the first road to the left and then the first road to the right which latter road is Lovers Lane. This is a very short road and leads to the river.

At first, the neighborhood looks uninviting and we say "only to the town dump." However, looking about we find various little paths and strata of sand and gravel deposited here by a glacier. Approaching the abundant growth of spirea we notice a cellar hole on our left. A home stood here at which many parties were held. One evening some vigorous dancing was in progress and the floor gave way. Luckily, no one was seriously injured.

Going on, let us help ourselves to a drink of deliciously cold water from a spring seen on the left as we descend the hill. [This spring is no longer available.] Crossing the bridge, let us rest awhile on the grassy banks of the stream where, said the poet, "then she sighed and then they sighed, side by side, down by the riverside." Soon we reach the Great Barrington Road. Turning right, we find ourselves one and a half miles from the village.

River Road to Hartsville

Going west from the Center toward Great Barrington, the River Road to Hartsville is the second road to the left. As we turn into the road note the steep bank on your right, nearly perpendicular, and the occasional falls of big blocks of clay. Pick up some of this clay and take it home for an experiment. Fashion it into shape, dry it and then bake it in your fireplace. Our early settlers, needing building material, combined to gather this clay, press it into bricks and fire it in kilns.

Soon we come to a bridge over the Konkapot River. In other walks we have spoken of little springs as the sources of small brooks. These brooks have converged so that this Konkapot River carries the drainage from almost the whole watershed of the town of Monterey. Follow this stream down to where it unites with others and presently you find yourself at Derby, Connecticut, where the Housatonic and the Naugatuck Rivers unite to make a mighty stream, shortly emptying into Long Island Sound, thence to feed the Atlantic Ocean.

If you are here in winter and the river has frozen over, take a look after the first snowfall and you will likely see the footprints of an old otter. He is an old inhabitant, having been going up and down this stream for many years.

Further on, look for the site of an old mill dam that once furnished power for a sawmill, the last of its kind to be used in Monterey. Look above the dam for an old log which appears to have fallen across the stream. It is said to be fossilized. Below the dam, look at the ledge and the old swimming hole [still a popular swimming hole].

Pass a house on the left and watch for a culvert. At its outlet, step over the fence and look for the lime kiln. Notice the little draft-hole at its base, and some of the old slaked lime showing through the soil. Look for watercress.

Continue on the highway down the stream a little way. Here was a factory for making soapstone stoves and rat traps. When the rat trap business was flourishing, whole wagon-loads of the traps were shipped away at a time.

Shortly we come to The Slide. You will recognize this by the cribbing. The soil here is mostly clay over hard pan. In Spring or at other times of unusually wet weather, great clumps of trees and earth formerly slid across and blocked the highway. Along here, look for bulrushes. We are near the town line.

Just ahead on the left is the Massachusetts State Fish Hatchery. This is well worth a visit. Ask how the fish are propagated. Inquire about the twin and triplet fish. We are now about three miles from Monterey Center and the road home is nearly all up-grade, so let us start on the return trip. ॐ

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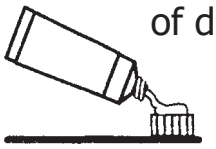

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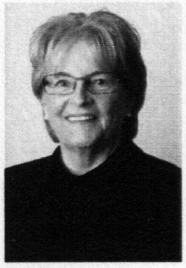

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Sandy Strikes Home

Hurricane Sandy was a massive event with severe consequences and ominous long-term implications. Because people living across the New York metropolitan area experienced it in different ways, I thought it useful to offer a general overview along with a sense of its impact on parts of my area of Long Island.

The weathermen got it right this time. We had sufficient warning and a timeframe in which to prepare and react. (Did folks in centuries past, before forecasts, ever know what was coming their way?) Foodstuffs, flashlights, batteries, generators flew off the shelves. Gas station lines swelled even before the storm hit. As always, there was a significant minority who dismissed the dire warnings and instructions to evacuate exposed waterfront areas on Long island and elsewhere (Staten Island and Lower Manhattan, for example). "It was a media event. They always exaggerate. I ain't leaving!" Surprisingly more people than I expected took it seriously. I watched as long lines of cars headed out of East Rockaway.

Report after report revealed the scope of the destruction. Collapsing roofs, basements totally flooded, and at ground level several feet of salt water swirling around kitchens and living rooms (which meant countless structures would no longer be habitable). Trees were uprooted and surrounding pavement crumpled; streets became impassable due to the mounting debris. Massive destruction occurred on Long Beach and surrounding areas, and raw sewage was disgorged into coastal waters. Further evacuations were ordered, with some residents forcibly removed. We are not unfamiliar with such scenes, but almost always they had happened elsewhere across the U.S., or more typically overseas. Now it was us—our friends, family and neighbors—jarring reality. Would we be as resilient as Americans are reputed to be?

People's circumstances differed greatly. Our lights quite miraculously came back on after but a few hours. Thus, we became a refugee camp—my daughter's family, including a young child and a dog, and my wife's 95-year-old father and his caretaker moved in. Things remained largely civil for many days (they might have become otherwise had we not escaped to Monterey for a period of time). We had electricity, water, showers, etc., but still it gave me an uncomfortable sense of what refugee encampments all over the world must be like.

Here's where the resiliency kicked in. People began negotiating all sorts of arrangements with friends, relatives, neighbors, and the local hotels (where many yet remain). Thousands waited on gasoline lines that stretched on endlessly. Many toughed it out. Those with gas heat took their hot showers. Others bundled up with all the clothes they possibly could during the day and went to bed early at night. Vast numbers went out to eat at those restaurants that hadn't lost power. For those lucky establishments it was a bonanza. But the nights were getting colder, temperatures dropping inside people's homes. Hundreds were obliged to enter area shelters provided by Nassau County. As for the pre-existent homeless population—one is afraid to ask how they fared.

The official response? Impressive at times, but also inept. Repair crews swept in quickly, many arriving from all across the United States. But the Long island Power Authority (LIPA) was not up to the challenge. Its disaster plans were flawed, its communication system inadequate, and its maps of the area outdated. Island residents could not learn when they might expect a restoration of power. (It later was revealed that large numbers of LIPA's officials were political appointees with little relevant experience.)

On the other hand, local residents organized quickly. Relief funds were raised, goods and foodstuffs collected and transported into affected areas where volunteers stepped forward to distribute these much-needed supplies. FEMA has helped, entering hard-hit areas from the beginning. Private insurance agents have arrived in large numbers in an effort to pay claims quickly.

Everyone talks about Sandy—many need to. It's an easy and obvious conversation opener. "What happened to you?" "How did you manage?" Some feel guilty, especially those who were merely inconvenienced. A gulf exists between those who were able to bounce back after five days or a week's time, and those who will be displaced for an indefinite time (months at the least) and who have suffered grave losses—homes, cars, possessions, boats, etc. For them, a return to normal cannot as yet even be imagined.

The storm has caused many to become reflective. Did it not demonstrate how critical a role government plays in our lives? We must remove the wreckage, repair, and rebuild, but should we not also consider how to limit such destruction the next time? And there will be a next time. Is this not connected to rising temperature levels across most of the world? Sandy could be the wake-up call we require. It left us with a mess, but will we get the message?

—Richard Skolnik, Monterey
& Rockville Centre, Long Island

We are grateful to Mr. Skolnik for sharing his story. Many Monterey second-home owners live in places severely affected by Hurricane Sandy. If you have a Sandy story, please send it to me. The Monterey community wants to know how our neighbors fared. —Ed.

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Burn Season Begins Jan. 15

Each year, the state allows some Massachusetts towns, including Monterey, to conduct open burning. It is important to remember that when burning, you are subject to certain requirements and responsibilities issued and enforced by the State Fire Marshals Office, DEP, and your local Fire Department. These guidelines include the following:

- Permits can be obtained from January 15 to April 30.
- You must obtain a permit for open burning from the Monterey Fire Department by calling **528-1734.**
- Residents must call on the day they will be burning; no permits are issued ahead of time. The permit is good for one day only.
- Burning hours start at 10 a.m. and all fires must be out by 4 p.m.
- Burning materials will be confined to brush only. **All other materials are prohibited.**
- Burning piles will be kept small and controllable
- No burning within 75 ft. of a building.
- Have a method of extinguishment and tools available.
- Permits are issued weather permitting. Burning is not allowed every day.
- Burning season will not be extended.

Make sure you call for a permit at 528-1734 and leave your name, the address of where you are burning, and a phone number.

ॐ

Ski Racing

One frigid winter,
When I skied every weekend,
I started down Lucifer's Leap,
next to my older brother;
We raced down the slope,
I lost by an inch.

On that day,
at that moment,
I resolved to beat him.
I trained vigorously,
Left turn,
right turn,
dig into the ice,
dig into the ice,
faster,
faster.

I loved the sound,
Of the air screaming by,
I loved the swish of snow,
The smack of impact,
after a long jump.

As the winter months grew shorter,
I practiced even harder.
Left turn,
right turn,
dig into the ice,
dig into the ice,
faster,
faster.

I knew the mountain by heart.
I could ski it backwards,
with my eyes closed.
The mountain was my field.

But the races got too fast,
too dangerous.
It all ended when my brother fell.
He slid to a stop,
A yard sale
I raced down to him,

worry in my eyes,
We came to a silent agreement.
It was time to stop.

It was very exciting,
while it lasted.
One time in the future though,
we will race again,
and I will win.

—Stephen Garber (age 13, grandson of Connie and Kirk Garber)

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Brown Creepers: Can Words Describe?

Yesterday there were two small birds moving up, up the oak trees at the top of the garden. If they held still they would be invisible, but they did not hold still. One on one tree, the other on a nearby other tree, each bird moved up in a spiral, looking in every crevice and cranny for something good to eat. I couldn't tell what they found, if anything.

These are brown creepers, *Certhia Americana,* and though they do breed and nest and stay here in Massachusetts, I mostly see them in the winter and spring, especially when we are out in the woods sugaring in February or March. My scant observations yesterday left me wanting more, so I head for the books. But first I cruise by Google, and there I find many an entry, not only photos and diagrams, but YouTube movies of creepers. I sit at my desk and watch the movie. Yesterday morning, sitting still outside in all my warm clothes, I saw the stage production, lit by snow and first light.

As usual, Google overwhelms me and makes me desperate. How can I in one lifetime look at all these references and really read them, or watch them, or remember them? Zip, zip, I try. Skim, skim, click. The more information I swallow the further I feel from a clear chilly morning with the little brown birds spiraling up. I decide to dodge the Internet, to go back in time to the printed word. For this I often look to Edward Howe Forbush, 1858–1929, who became State Ornithologist of Massachusetts in 1908. Forbush wrote the three-volume *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States* (Norwood, Mass: Norwood Press, 1929).

Ah, words. Thanks to Forbush and the creepers I have a new one already: "alula." At first meeting, this might be a Hawaiian

dance with soft breezes and plumeria blossoms, gentle arm movements, and a thumping hollow gourd and singing. In context, though, alula becomes anatomical. In the beginning paragraphs on brown creepers, the description goes along like this: "tail rather long, usually slightly longer than wing, graduated, its feathers stiffened and pointed at end; basal joint of middle toe adheres to the side toes for its whole length . . . plumage rather loose." We come to the words about color. "Deep brown above, more russet on rump and upper tail coverts . . . rump with concealed spot of white on each feather . . . tail coverts with a tiny white spot on tip of each feather." And now, here it comes:

"Alula tipped whitish."

I am thrilled that Edward Howe Forbush actually considers me, his gentle reader of the distant future, to be a person for whom alula may need no clarification! Or, he feels that if by chance I do lean toward Hawaii sometimes, I will still get out my dictionary. Here I find it. *Alula* is Latin and is a diminutive for wing, or *ala*. It is a tiny wing or winglet, a freely moving first digit like the thumb on my hand. On the brown creeper, it is tipped with white . . . *ish.*

Forbush collected the words of others, too, describing their observations. William Brewster wrote that the call or song of the little brown creeper was "exquisitely pure and tender consisting of four notes, the first of moderate pitch, the second lower and less emphatic, the third rising again and the last abruptly falling, but dying away in an indescribably plaintive cadence like the sighing of the wind in pine boughs."

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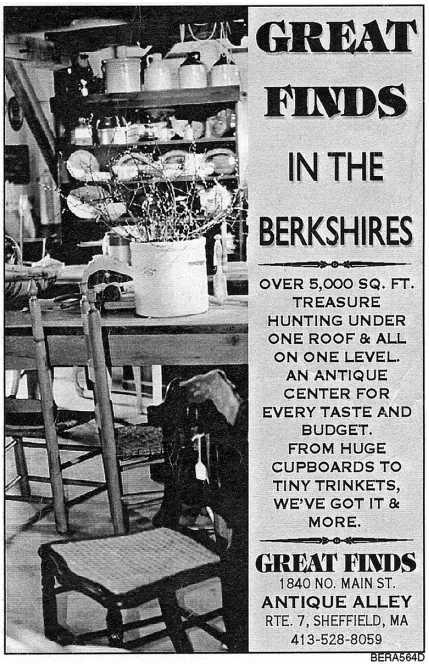
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So we look, we see, we trot out our words and do our best. Sometimes we do very well. We do not have fused basal joints in our toes and perfect coloring so we can vanish against a tree trunk. We cannot live on tiny bugs and keep our babies safe behind loose pieces of bark, but we can notice these things and tell each other. Miss Elizabeth Dickens of Block Island, R.I., recounted to Forbush that it is not only tree trunks these birds can climb. She once saw one climb up the tail of a cow!

We pass the words to one another, maybe as invitations to go outside and see a little bird five inches long fly from the top of one tree to the bottom of another and then work its way up. Mr. C. E. Bailey spent an hour watching, and during that time a creeper inspected forty-three trees, starting at two feet from the ground and working its way up to about twenty feet, then flying down to the next, near its bottom. This bird showed a preference for white oaks. Bailey told Forbush, and Forbush told me by writing about it before I was born. I am passing it on, the words.

—Bonner J. McAllester

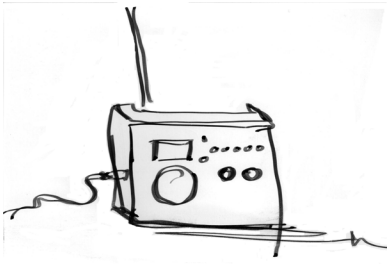
Travel Grant Applications Due February 1

The Alice and Richard Henriquez Fund/ Youth World Awareness Program, a fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, is accepting grant applications through February 1 from high school students and nonprofit organizations to support travel and humanitarian efforts in foreign countries by young people ages 14–22.

Recent grantee Zoe Borden from Great Barrington said, "This past summer, with financial help from the Henriquez Fund, I was able to travel to Tanzania through Projects Abroad to study medicine in two hospitals. With the help of the Fund I was able to work alongside a group of very inspirational doctors to learn about the medical field and treat patients, build friendships with amazing students my age from all around the world, and learn about African culture by living with a wonderful host family. After this experience, I am sure that I want to pursue a career in the medical field, and I am working with Railroad Street Youth Project and my high school to organize health forums so that I can share what I learned in the hospitals in Tanzania with the young people of the community."

The Alice and Richard Henriquez Memorial Fund was formed in 1995 to encourage the development of peace among nations and justice for all people by funding international experiences for young men and women in their intellectually formative years. Mr. Henriquez believed that "an understanding of other people and their cultures, as well as sensitivity to the destabilizing effect of social and economic injustice is what young men and women will need if they are to effectively contribute to a peaceful and just world in their adult lives."

A committee of local residents reviews applications based upon the potential impact of the experience for the applicant, potential to carry out the project, and the likelihood of the project to have a positive impact on the community served. The next deadline for The Alice and Richard Henriquez Fund/Youth World Awareness Program grant application is February 1, 2013. Applications and guidelines are available online at http://www.berkshiretaconic.org/grantseekers.



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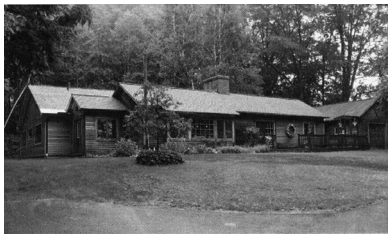

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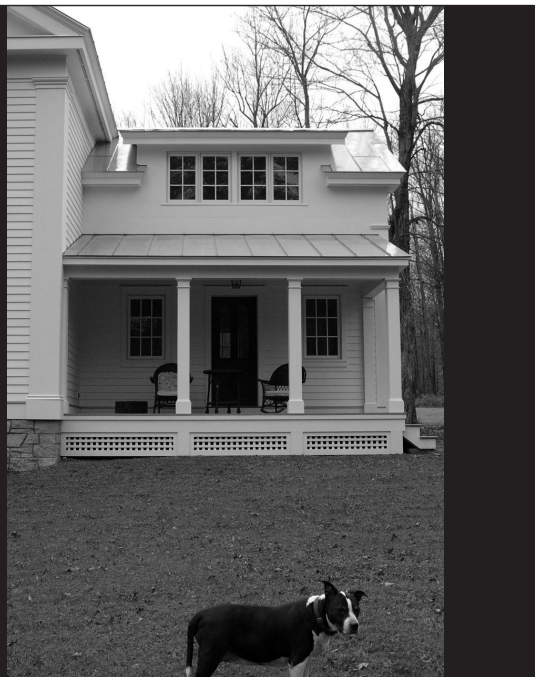
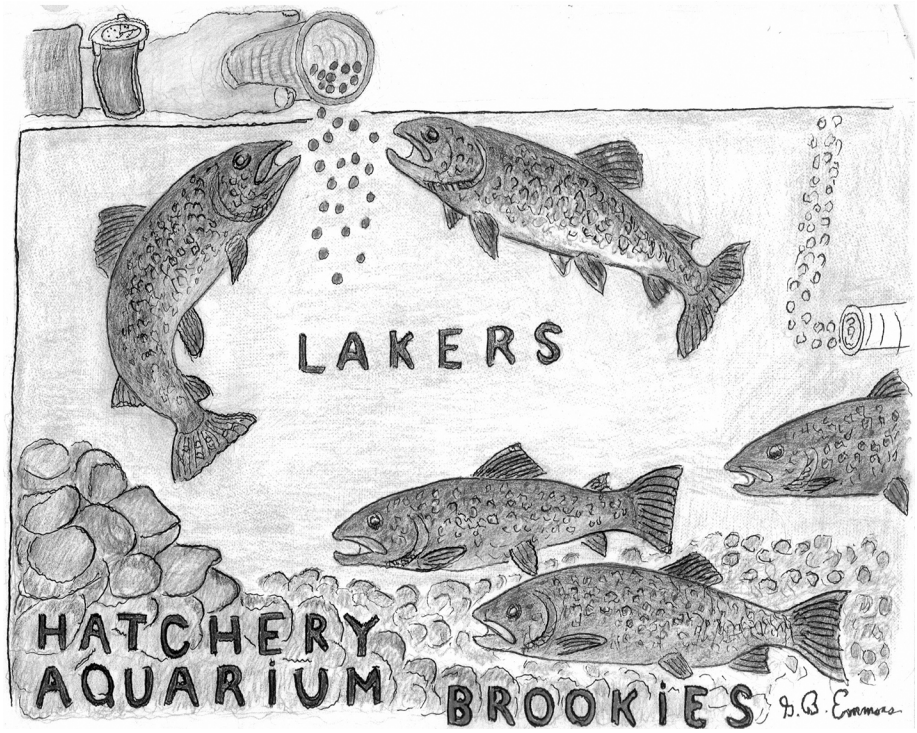


Hatchery New Year: Lakers and Brookies



On Christmas Day in the Berkshire Fish Hatchery Kelt (hatch) House we had a gift of lake trout eggs, already eyed up, to open, a present from Henry Bouchard of the Eisenhower Hatchery in Vermont—about 10,000 of them, and just what we always wanted to get ready to celebrate the hatchery New Year!

Lake trout are the largest of the char family, indigenous in larger lakes; in oxygen rich water they grow to between 15 and 40 pounds. During summer stratification they herd up in depths of 60 to 200 feet. They are brought here as brood stock for the Great Lakes stocking programs because of the perfect 47-degree water temperatures in the ponds fed by our artesian wells.

Engineers at the Berkshire Water Company a few miles away who share the same aquifer say that it must be a mile below the surface for that temperature to hold year round. Hydrostatic pressure gushes up 300 gallons a minute that, like the fountain of youth, has given a long life to the hatchery.

The previous endowment of Lakers (a nickname connecting species with habitat) began with the Seneca strain from the Finger Lakes region. Under the daily care of John Doelman, Leroy Thorpe, and Phil Gunzinger, more than 2,000 grew to an average weight of 3.7 pounds, a good start for the program. They went to the hatchery in Allegany, Pennsylvania, and eventually to the Great Lakes. Now we have a Lake Champlain strain to fill the void left by Hurricane Irene's devastation of The White River National Hatchery in Bethel, Vermont.

Simultaneously, there are no fewer than 100,000 brook trout eggs in the Kelt House also shedding their gift-wraps from Jeff Mosher's educational spawning demonstrations in the lower raceway. The colorful Brookies are beloved by sportsmen for their carnivorous bait-taking and ferocious fighting, inspiring catch and release. Our large colorful fish also swim through our outreach-stocking mission to many regional fish and game clubs.

Just as a gravity-flow fountain in the Kelt House provides for time-released seasonal renewal, the office wildlife center provides an educational library and research display with a spectacular aquarium for children of all ages. And since the next generation is our future, the last board meeting voted to explore hatchery scholarships for local high school biology students, adopting this undertaking as our New Year's resolution.

—George B. Emmons

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Seniors Wii Bowling Beginning Soon

It's that time again. It's time for Monterey Seniors over the age of fifty to join the Wii Bowling League. The league will begin the week of February 11, 2013. Come enjoy the fun. We had lots of fun the last time so if you don't t know how it was ask a senior who bowled in the last league.

Here is how it works:

- Bowling is at the town hall in the meeting room.
- Teams have four bowlers (you may have up to eight bowlers on your roster).
- Teams bowl one match a week (a match is two games).
- Teams bowl in their own community (you do not travel).
- Teams bowl in a conference with seven other teams (you bowl against each team one time = seven weeks of competition).
- Winning teams advance to a playoff format (one to three weeks).
- Teams play in divisions based on ability.
- The NSL provides the schedule, keeps statistics, and gives out awards.
- Each team has a "coach" who manages play and posts scores on the NSL website.
- Scores are posted by 9 pm EST each Thursday.
- Results are available at 9 am EST each Friday.
- NSL bowlers must be fifty-plus years old. Anyone fifty-plus may bowl on a team.

So come on out and join the fun. Call Mike Johnson 528-1443 ext 247 or just stop by the Town Hall and let him know you want to bowl. Watch the February edition of the *Monterey News* for dates of Open House for Wii Bowling at Monterey Town Hall, with sign-ups.

Recent Acquisitions at Monterey Library

Below is a sample of recent new material in the Monterey Library. Come in and browse.

These books and movies are newly released and in high demand by all users of CWMARS. If you'd like to borrow them you will probably need to place a hold on them through your CWMARS account, or you can call the library (528-3795) or come by during open hours.

A list of new titles at the Monterey Library is now available online at the CWMARS site (http://www.cwmars.org/new_titles). Just click on Monterey Library (or any other library of interest) to see the recent arrivals.

DVDs

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Adult Fiction

Operation Napoleon, Arnaldur Indridason
Spycatcher, Matthew Dunn
Retribution, Adrian Magson
The Twelve Tribes of Hattie, Ayana Mathis
The Invisible Ones, Stef Penney
The Ice Maiden Cometh Not, Alistair Boyle
Nightrise, Jim Kelly

Adult Nonfiction

Mad Science: Einstein's Fridge, Dewar's Flask, Mach's Speed And 362 Other Inventions And Discoveries That Made Our World, Randy Alfred,
Pastures of Plenty, John E. Carroll
The Real Dirt, John E. Carroll
Gibson's Grove & Turner's Landing, Bernard A. Drew
Shop Drawings of Shaker Furniture and Woodenware, Ejner Handberg
Cultivating Peace, James Odea

Audio Books

Mortality, Christopher Hitchens
The Orphanmaster, Jean Zimmerman

Young Adult

Lullaby, Amanda Hocking
Metamaus, Art Spiegelman (Graphic)
Breathless, Jessica Warman

Youth

The Wild Horse Scientists, Kay Frydenborg
Rescuing The Children, Deborah Hodge
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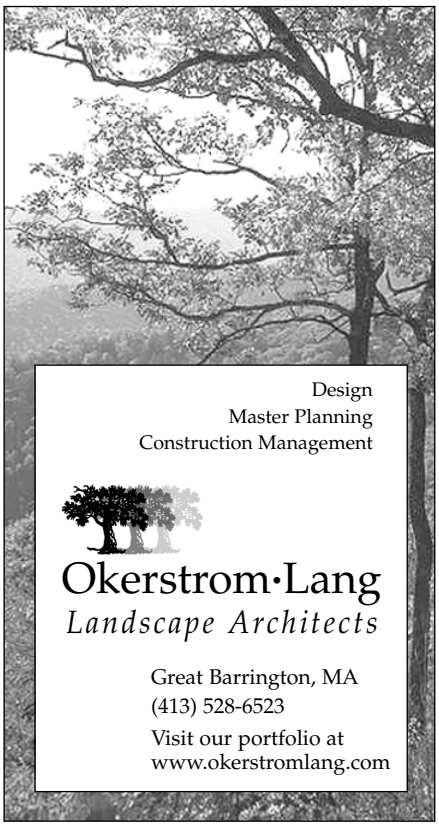

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Four More Years

I imagine that many of you share my relief that President Obama won a second term in office. Still, as with a majority of Americans, I have concerns over our direction and the various policy priorities for the next four years. Additionally, along with many fellow young people in particular, I wonder about this fragile but potentially powerful coalition that reelected the president. So, what's next?

Dear Mr. President,

Congratulations on winning a second term in office. During your campaign, you talked about moving forward. Your victory speech in Chicago expressed the same desire for hope and change, and you acknowledged that we all care about this country, in our own way. As citizens, we believe passionately in our convictions, whatever they may be, and are concerned about how we should address the problems we face as a nation. Self-governing is no easy task, and it is a challenge we must continually rise to in order to fulfill this democratic experiment. As citizens, our duty does not end at the ballot box.

During this holiday season, news out of Washington is centered on the impending fiscal cliff with sequestration and various tax cuts. I hope whatever solution you ultimately hash out in concert with the House Republicans does not kick proverbial cans down the road, but I can already see that my hopes may be set too high. All of us should pay our fair share, but if we're serious about cutting the deficit and managing national spending, I hope the conversation focuses on the real contributors to the national debt. Not only that, but I hope that we take a balanced approach now without ignoring the long term entirely. These days Washington seems to operate on timeframes as short as six months to a year; still, given campaign cycles, that really isn't surprising.

If I took an idealistic perspective, and some might call it naïve, I'd give you a list of issues for a second-term agenda. Unfortunately, the tricky aspects of governance may stymie your best efforts. The recent talks in Doha yielded little by way of progress in the fight to mitigate and slow down global climate change. The conference in Rio also had little to show. Yet, scientists continue to warn us about our slow march toward irreversible consequences. The United States is certainly not the only industrialized country contributing to rising levels of CO_2 in the atmosphere and the greenhouse effect, but we are still a leader among nations, and our leadership in this effort leaves much to be desired. While third-world countries plead for assistance in coping with rising sea levels, we are seeing extreme weather affecting our shorelines as well.

A recent piece in the *Washington Post* posited a way to bring the clean-energy conversation to Middle America; as a concerned American who is not an expert in this particular topic, I'm hopeful we see some progress on climate change, in more than vague world meetings and ill-fated treaties. I'd like to see us lead, both domestically in moving away from oil consumption to clean energy and also internationally in stepping up to the challenge at hand.

Somehow I doubt the U.S. Congress will move any real legislation, but as I said, in the spirit of holiday cheer, I put this forward as one hope for your second term.

There are countless policy priorities on the table as we continue to rebound from the recent recession. We still have an unemployment crisis and an underwater mortgage crisis. We have high numbers of older folks who have lost retirement savings along with their jobs and can't find new ones. Then there are the young people, many of them well educated, with student loans, who cannot find steady employment. We're currently spending millions of dollars a month in food assistance for families and children who are in danger of going hungry, instead of collecting income taxes from gainfully employed citizens. There are justifications for investment and new models of economic stability and growth. We need to invest and we need to rebuild our local communities.

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Our infrastructure is in need of an upgrade. Our roads, bridges, and water pipes are all in disrepair. We spend time and resources putting Band-Aids on problems as they arise, instead of investing in a twenty-first-century infrastructure. Rural areas in this country still don't have broadband access. Our education system, a priority during your first term, is under threat from serious cuts; even without the threat of sequestration, governors across the country are forced to make tough choices, choices between Medicare promises for the elderly and education funding for the nation's future leaders and citizens. Still, we must continue to invest in our nation's education system and support the ten million plus professionals who are dedicated to our students. We know why neighborhood schools in low-income areas struggle; we must ensure that children of all ages experience economic security so they can focus on their academic, social, and emotional success.

There is, as I know you are aware, a litany of other critical issues that require discussion and action: civil rights (as evidenced in recent attempts to restrict voting rights), reproductive rights for women, the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, pay equity, family-leave policies for new parents, and increased authority behind the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. I could go on. In short, I'm excited about the next four years and I'm also filled with trepidation. I'm also thrilled that we have, for the first time in history, so many powerful women serving in Congress. In particular, I'm thrilled to see Senator-elect Elizabeth Warren joining your efforts from my great home state of Massachusetts. She will be a champion for working class families across the Commonwealth and the nation.

Although I am hopeful for the next four years, I also worry about the long-term progressive infrastructure. I hope that your party does not sit and assume that demographics are inevitable; coalitions must be nurtured. Do not neglect those who voted you in for a second term, especially the younger generation. I hope you and your party don't take us for granted. Additionally, like many moderates and conservatives, I do not believe you won with a mandate to pass your agenda; Republicans retained control of the House, and they also have thirty governorships. Additionally, the consistent gerrymandering efforts all but ensure their hold on the House for years to come.

Finally Mr. President, I hope you continue to be transparent and engage citizens of all ages in the process of governing. We cannot afford to lose momentum, either in 2014 or down the road in 2016, for change is constant and endless. The work is never done. When I get impatient at the slow pace of progress, I'll remind myself of Senator Edward M. Kennedy's 1980 speech after he conceded the Democratic nomination to Jimmy Carter: "For all those whose cares have been our concern, the work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives and the dream will never die."

I hope everyone had a healthy and happy Thanksgiving and I wish you all a joyous holiday season.

—Tarsi Dunlop

Dewey Hall Folk Music Series

Dewey Hall in Sheffield is an acoustically superior hall that hosts a monthly series of local, regional, and national musicians performing in an intimate, family-friendly atmosphere.

On Saturday, January 5, at 7:30 pm, ***The Easy Ridin' Papas*** will ride in, featuring Adam Brown on guitar and vocals, and Sheffield's own Will Conklin on trumpet/cornet, vocals, whistling, and a really loud kazoo. ERP plays a mix of 1920s, '30s, '40s country blues/jazz, western swing, southern gospel, jugband, ragtime, and anything else that catches their fancy. You can check them out on www.youtube.com/watch?v=1HQ9IYOWq6w. www.facebook.com/groups/104487706274317/.

On Saturday, February 2, at 7:30 pm, ***Justin Hillman***, a singer/songwriter whose sound is rooted in folk music with an inclination toward the Avante Garde will be on hand. Justin's unique, textural acoustic guitar work, contemplative lyrics, and smoky voice tell tales and teach lessons in a new and refreshing way, full of spirit and love (www.justinhillman.com).

There is a suggested donation of $10, but you can pay what you can afford. BYOB. Dewey Hall is at 91 Main Street, Sheffield (www.DeweyHall.com).

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"Garden Gustation"
What's cooking from Monterey Gardens & Farms

New Year Yogurt and Seed Searching

Happy New Year! I love this time of year. The garden is at peace with a dusting of snow, and I'm enjoying the longer evenings by the fire. What better thing to do in this space than to start dreaming of the next growing season? The seed catalogues are beginning to pile up on the side table near the couch. I just got the Fedco catalog from my friend Michele with an order deadline of January 6 to get our bulk discount. That sure pushes the agenda. I might have let it go for another month or so. I order a majority of my seeds from Fedco and a fair bit from Johnny's Selected Seeds, both from Maine. The catalogues are a great read, particularly Fedco's with all kinds of useful information and great drawings on newsprint-like paper. Johnny's is always exciting too, due to their beautiful photography and well-organized offerings. They also both carry a large variety of organic seeds.

I took a workshop last year at the Berkshire Botanical Garden titled Seed Saving. It was a wonderfully informative workshop, albeit too short, on how to save your own seeds. The woman who gave the workshop, Sylvia Davatz, has her own small seed company in Hartland, Vermont, Solstice Seeds. It was inspiring to hear about the many ways that seeds can be grown, collected, and saved from our own vegetable plants. Although I haven't yet taken this project on, it was a small step toward learning about keeping favorite varieties around for generations. But enough about buying seeds, I think I'll plant one . . .

How about making your own yogurt? One thing I make on a regular basis is yogurt. Now, I realize that none of the ingredients come from our garden, but it can be made from local ingredients and adorned with many of the fruits from the garden. Raspberries, blueberries, strawberries, and peaches all come to mind when I think of yogurt. Add some homemade granola, and you've got a healthy meal. I also use plain yogurt in place of sour cream whenever I have a recipe that calls for it. Not only is yogurt easy to make, it makes financial sense. I just learned that Highlawn Farms is now offering their milk in gallon jugs for about $5–$6. I can get 4 quarts of yogurt from this gallon, which makes the cost of the yogurt roughly $1.50 per quart! There is no need for fancy, plug-in yogurt makers. I use soup pots that I already have and quart canning jars, but any glass jar will work.

I have two large pots that I use, one that fits inside the other. I heat up the milk in the smaller pot (9.5" diameter x 7.5" high) while it sits nestled in a water bath in the larger pot (about 10.5" in diameter and 6.5" high). Then when the heating and cooling is through, I set the jars into the larger pot covered with hot water and wrapped in a towel. Initially you will have to buy some yogurt as a starter, but you'll be able to use your own yogurt as a starter from then on. Add-ins are up to you, plain or sweetened, with or without fruit; it doesn't get much simpler than this. Enjoy your New Year Yogurt!

Maple Vanilla Homemade Yogurt

(*Underlined ingredients are our own or locally obtained.*)

For 4 quarts of Yogurt:

3.5 quarts (14 cups) of Highlawn Farm Milk (I prefer their lowfat)
1 cup of Stoneyfield Farm **Plain** Yogurt (I like the cream top version)
Vanilla bean, cut into 1" sections and sliced open, optional
Local maple syrup or honey, optional
Instant-read thermometer

Measure out the 1 cup of starter yogurt and let it sit out to warm up a bit. Wash 4 quart glass jars with lids. I measure out one cup of maple syrup and add ¼ cup to each jar. Place about 2" of water in the larger pot and place the smaller pot inside it. Add the 3.5 quarts of milk to the smaller pot along with the vanilla bean. Heat the pots over medium-high heat until the milk reaches 180˚. Remove from the heat. If a thin "skin" forms on the milk, simply remove it with a slotted spoon.

Fill the sink with cold water. Set the hot milk pot into the sink filled with cold water. This will bring the temperature down. Let it sit in the cold water for about 10 minutes and check the temperature of the milk. The temperature should be brought down to about 110–112˚. Watch the temperature of the milk carefully; it shouldn't go below 110˚. When the milk has reached 110–112˚ remove it from the sink and thoroughly whisk in the 1 cup of starter yogurt. Remove the vanilla bean pieces at this point if you have used them. Pour the mixture into the jars and stir to mix in the maple syrup. Cap the jars and place into the larger pot. Fill the pot with HOT tap water up to the level of the milk in the jars. Cover the pot to help keep in the heat. Lay a bath towel out on

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a counter that is free from drafts and in a warm location. Place the pot with the jars on the towel and then wrap the towel around and over the pot. Do not disturb for 4 hours. Leaving the yogurt for longer will give it more of a tangy taste. Remove the jars from the water; you should have yogurt! It is delicious warm, or chill it in the refrigerator. Yogurt will keep for up to two weeks in the fridge.

—Wendy G. Jensen
wendygj@gmail.com

From the Meetinghouse . . .
Shared Birthdays

Grace was born early in the morning on the 9th of December, one day before I wrote this article and three days before a 12/12/12 article in the Berkshire Eagle*, also about shared birthdays. After pondering, and again after suddenly realizing it's the evening of December 26 and I haven't written another article for the January* News *to replace this one, I'm going to risk offering you more on the birthday theme. After all, it's a new year, a new take on the experience, and maybe you didn't read the* Eagle *article anyway . . .*

In her "first-day, welcome home" photos, Grace is tiny, very present, swaddled. Her head's capped with a dusting of cinnamon-colored hair. She's surrounded by family: her mother, her father, two grandmothers, one grandfather, her big brother, Lane, and her twice-sister, Sydney.

How twice? Simple: Grace was born fifty minutes into Sydney's eighteenth birthday. Syd's facial expression and body language in photos of the birthday girls—some of Grace in her sister's arms, one of both asleep on the living room couch—hint at an affinity that few people other than twins manage. But does that mean I think that they're fated to be exactly alike? Not hardly.

Yes, Grace and her sister are "twinned" in that they share a birthday. But we all share our birthdays. There are only 366 days available in the longest years, and plenty more of us here than would be possible if we each laid claim to one of those days as ours alone. Yet, with only those few days to choose among, many of us have never met one of our birth-date twins. That may be even more remarkable than Grace's arrival on her sister's birth anniversary.

It's estimated that almost 274,000 of us are born each day. With a world population of about 7,000,000,000 people, more than 19,000,000 individuals share any given birth date by month and day. We share actual-birth-days with more than 352,000 others. We just don't usually grow up in the same family with a "twin" who isn't a biological twin as well.

But this sisterly twist to Grace's arrival got me curious. I went online to see who also share Grace and Sydney's birth date. Partial list: Redd Foxx, Judi Dench, John Malkovitch, Kirk Douglas, Donny Osmond, Beau Bridges, Michael Dorn (aka Worf), Douglas Fairbanks, Jakob Dylan (who won a Grammy Award the same day his father Bob also won one), and sad clown Emmett Kelly. Lest you begin to see a possibly prophetic entertainment theme here, the day also belongs to English poet John Milton.

The first person I ever heard of who shared my birthday—OK, technically, I was born on *his* birthday—was Maurice Chevalier. (Note to those of you to whom the name's an antique you can't quite place: download the film *Gigi* from Netflix.) I checked my-and-Maurice's birth date and also found Lorenzo de Medici, Henry Hudson, H. L. Mencken, Alfred Knopf, painter Ben Shahn, composer Dimitri Shostakovich, Irish poet Louis MacNeice, Olympic gold medalist Jesse Owens, singers George Jones and Maria Muldaur ("Midnight at the Oasis"). True confession: I left the serial killer off this list.

Oh, wait a minute. Karl Rove and Jimmy Buffet ("Margaritaville") both share a December 25th birthday, a date they share with Isaac Newton, Barbara Mandrell, and Sissy Spacek, among others. Maybe, in the rosy glow of Grace's arrival, I've overblown this twinship idea. Maybe we just have birthday companions. Happy actual-birth-day either way, Grace. Welcome to this wonderful, wacky world.

Want to check out your birth-date companions before your 2013 birthday rolls around? Find the lists at www.famousbirthdays.com, or at www.history-orb.com/birthdays-on-this-day.php.

—Mary Kate Jordan

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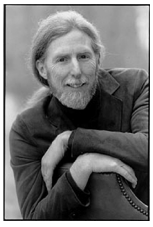

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Save Monterey School Building

To the Editor:

I have been following the story of the Monterey School, and as an alumna of the Kindergarten class of 1982, I would like to comment on the passionate actions to keep the school open and the proposal to build a new school.

In September 1981, I was very excited to start school. As a fan of *Little House on the Prairie*, I was even more thrilled to be attending a one-room schoolhouse. To me, the desire to keep the Monterey School open has always been dictated by the historic schoolhouse and the unique start it provided many Monterey and New Marlborough children. While students and teachers will continue to come and go, the building itself is the heart and soul of the Monterey School.

I work in the history/museum field and I am troubled that no one seems to be taking into consideration that the schoolhouse is a historic building with many stories to tell. It is a contributing historic resource along with other structures that makes up the historic village of Monterey. I was surprised to learn that the village of Monterey is not listed as a historic district with the State and National Register of Historic Places.

The schoolhouse must be looked at as a historic restoration project. Doing so will remove the building out of the "beyond repair" category. Grant funds are available for historic preservation and restoration. Most require a match, but alums of the Monterey School, residents/tax payers, and fans of one-room schoolhouses would most likely contribute to such a meaningful project.

Recently, the historic General Store struggled with reopening due to code and building upgrades. No one suggested that perhaps it would have been easier to build a new store.

—Rachel Rodgers Dolhanczyk
Dennisville, Cape May County, NJ

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9 am–10:30	Youth Hockey Clinics/Games (ages up to 14) with Peter Poirier; free, just show up
Noon–9:00 pm	Public Skating
SUNDAY	
9:00 to 11:30 am	Adult Hockey
11:30 am–9:00 pm	Public Skating

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Nancy Fliesler
Carlo & Margaret Romairone
Glenn M. Heller
Mike, Laura & Rachel Arnow
John Schmerler

Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, Town Hall, 9 am.

Tuesday, January 1, 2013: New Year's Day; Town Offices, Library closed.

Wednesday, January 2, and every Wednesday through February 6: Chair Yoga, taught by Connie Wilson, 9–10 am, Monterey Library. Free to Monterey residents. For more information, call Connie 528-3798.

Saturday, January 5: Dewey Hall Folk Music Series, The Easy Ridin' Papas (Adam Brown and Will Conklin), 7:30 pm, Dewey Hall, Sheffield. See p. 19.

Thursday, January 10: Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Berkshire Visiting Nurse Assoc., Town Hall Meeting Room, 2–3 pm.

Tuesday, January 15: Brush burning season opens. Permits required; call 528-1734. See p. 13.

Wednesday, January 16: Community Potluck Dinner, 6 pm, Monterey Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall. Program by scientist and healthy-food proponent Ed Stockman on genetically modified foods. Everyone welcome. See p. 5.

Friday, January 18: Opening reception for Gould Farm's Centennial Year Archival Exhibit, 6:00–7:30 pm, Knox Gallery, Monterey Library. Exhibit will be displayed through February 20. See p. 6.

Monday, January 21: Martin Luther King Jr. Day; Town Offices, Library closed. No Select Board meeting.

Monday, January 28: Adult book group will discuss *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba, 7:30 pm, Monterey Library. Newcomers welcome.

Monterey News

The Monterey News is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, photographs, and poetry. Submissions may also sent to the email address below. We need to receive submissions by the 23rd of the month prior to publication. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

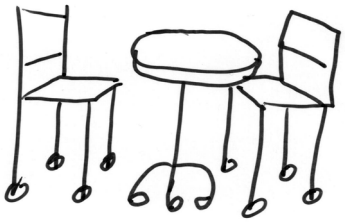
The Observer
November 26 – December 25

High temp. (12/10)	52°
Low temp. (12/6, 14)	19°
Avg. high temp.	38.3°
Avg. low temp.	25.9°
Avg. temp.	32.1°
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	4.41 in.
Snowfall	7.9 in.

Precipitation occurred on 21 days.

Friday, February 1: Deadline for applications for youth travel grants from Alice and Richard Henriquez Fund/Youth World Awareness Fund. Applications available at http://www.berkshiretaconic.org/grantseekers. See p. 15.

Saturday, February 2: Dewey Hall Folk Music Series, singer-songwriter Justin Hillman, 7:30 pm, Dewey Hall, Sheffield. See p. 19.



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Contributions from local artists this month:
Pat Arnow, 4, 6, 23; Maureen Banner, 13,15;
George Emmons, 16; Glynis Marsh, 22; Bonner McAllester, 14;
Leah Weisgal, 8

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